



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Northwest Region
7600 Sand Point Way N.E., Bldg. 1
Seattle, WA 98115

July 30, 2002

Brigadier General David A. Fastabend
Commander and Division Engineer
US Army Corps of Engineers, Northwestern Division
PO Box 2870
Portland, OR 97208-2870

Steve Wright
Administrator & Chief Executive Officer
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

J. William McDonald
Regional Director
US Bureau of Reclamation
PN Regional Office
1150 N Curtis Road
Boise, ID 83706-1234

RE: NMFS' Findings Regarding Adequacy of the *Endangered Species Act 2002 1-Year Implementation Plan for the Federal Columbia River Power System*

Dear General Fastabend and Messrs. Wright and McDonald:

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NOAA Fisheries) December 21, 2000 biological opinion addressing operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) and 19 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation projects (hereafter, "the Opinion") anticipated that many of the reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) actions will need to be refined and adjusted as new study results and other relevant information become available. The FCRPS Action Agencies produce annual and five-year implementation plans that describe progress to date, lay out details of the short- and long-term plans for achieving performance standards, propose adjustments to the RPA Actions, and describe the rationale for those adjustments. NOAA Fisheries is required to review each year's annual implementation plan and issue a findings letter to the FCRPS Action Agencies regarding the adequacy of the plan (RPA Action 12).

NOAA Fisheries finds that the FCRPS Action Agencies' 2002 Implementation Plan, when viewed in the context of your 2001 Progress Report, your draft 2002-2006 Implementation Plan, and reports of other federal agencies regarding implementation of the Basinwide Salmon

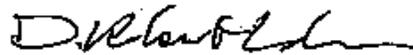


Recovery Strategy, is generally consistent with the Opinion and adequate to implement the RPA during 2002. The 2002 Implementation Plan is likely to meet the schedule and scope anticipated by the 2003 mid-point evaluation for the great majority of RPA Actions. A report detailing the basis for this finding is enclosed.

Please note that although the great majority of RPA Actions are being implemented as expected, the enclosed report points out that 14 of the 199 RPA Actions are behind schedule or have been modified in a manner that presents challenges for meeting the Opinion's objectives. These challenges are being addressed through ongoing discussions among NOAA Fisheries and the FCRPS Action Agencies. NOAA Fisheries is committed to working with the FCRPS Action Agencies to ensure that the Opinion is successfully implemented.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Brown, Assistant Regional Administrator for the Hydro Program at 503-230-5417.

Sincerely,



D. Robert Lohn
Regional Administrator

Enclosure